

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



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Agency Secretary

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MEMORANDUM



Gray Davis
Governor

TO: Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
Department of Pesticide Regulation
P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, California 95812-4015

FROM: Anna M. Fan, Ph.D., Chief *AMF*
Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Section

DATE: April 26, 2003

SUBJECT: CONCURRENCE OF PROPOSED METHYL BROMIDE FIELD
FUMIGATION EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has reviewed the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) proposal to readopt the methyl bromide field fumigation emergency regulations, Sections 6450, 6450.1, 6450.2, 6450.3, 6784(b), and two definitions in Section 6000 pursuant to Food and Agriculture Code Section 12981. The purpose of this proposed action is to provide an immediate and effective mechanism to implement appropriate mitigation measures to protect the public and workers from acute methyl bromide exposure hazards.

To assure continuance of a measure for health and safety protection from short-term exposures to workers and the public when methyl bromide is used for field fumigation, OEHHA offers concurrence with DPR's emergency regulations as proposed.

In looking toward the future for assuring worker and public health and safety related to fumigants, OEHHA remains concerned about the absence of regulatory controls specific to chloropicrin, an agent with high acute toxicity, and chloropicrin used in combination with methyl bromide and other fumigants. Some registered methyl bromide products currently contain up to 50% chloropicrin, thereby increasing our concern regarding this agent. Even as methyl bromide use continues, or if its use declines or is phased out altogether, it is likely that other fumigants, such as Telone, Vikane, methyl iodide, and propargyl bromide that utilize chloropicrin as an active ingredient and warning agent, will greatly increase. Since products containing chloropicrin are being re-evaluated for registration purposes at this time, it seems appropriate and timely that California initiates rule making for this agent. Therefore, we request that you initiate the rule making process to address the worker and public health issues regarding chloropicrin in all applications.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.



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Also, we have discussed our concerns with you previously regarding the toxicity of methyl bromide. We look forward to working with you in developing permanent regulations for methyl bromide including its use near locations where children are present.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for OEHHA to review DPR's proposed emergency regulations for methyl bromide field fumigation. If you have further questions, please call me at (510) 622-3165 or Mr. Robert Schlag at (916) 323-2624.

cc: Val F. Siebal
Chief Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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